

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8470

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 16263

USEEC

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV, EEC, EI

SUBJECT: MISSION IMPRESSIONS OF IRISH MFA OFFICIAL

ANDREW O'ROURKE

REF: DUBLIN 2666

1. O'ROURKE HAS BEEN DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE IRISH MISSION SINCE 1974 AND HAS, AS SUCH, SERVED ON PART ONE OF THE EC COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (COREPER). (PART ONE IS COMPOSED OF DEPUTY PERM REPS). DURING HIS FOUR-YEAR TENURE, O'ROURKE WITNESSED A GRADUAL INCREASE IN THE IMPORTANCE OF COREPER DATING FROM THE PARIS SUMMIT OF 1974 WHICH MANDATED A STRENGTHENING OF THE COMMITTEE'S ROLE BOTH IN PREPARING AGENDA FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS AND IN TAKING DECISIONS ON A WIDER RANGE OF ISSUES. MISSION OFFICERS HAVE FOUND O'ROURKE TO BE WELL INFORMED ON ALL ISSUES DEALT WITH BY HIS SECTION OF COREPER AND, TO ALL EVIDENCE, APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE DIPLOMAT AND REPRESENTATIVE OF IRELAND.

2. O'ROURKE HAS BEEN VERY OPEN AND FRIENDLY WITH US
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MISSION OFFICERS WHO HAVE FOUND HIM TO BE SLIGHTLY CYNICAL BUT HIGHLY COMPETENT AND VERY PERSONABLE. O'ROURKE SHARES HIS COUNTRYMEN'S USUAL DISTRUST FOR THE BRITISH BUT IS NOT PARTICULARLY IMBUED WITH AN ANTI-BRITISH ATTITUDE. IN ANY CASE, HE SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN ALONG WELL WITH HIS BRITISH COLLEAGUES IN BRUSSELS AND WAS ABLE TO JOKE WITH THEM AT SOCIAL GATHERINGS ABOUT

BRITISH/IRISH RELATIONS. IN SUM, O'ROURKE PROVED TO BE
A GOOD FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES IN BRUSSELS AND SHOULD
PROVE A VALUABLE CONTACT IN DUBLIN.

3. BACKGROUND MATERIAL IN REFTEL APPEARS CORRECT.
WE WOULD ONLY ADD THAT O'ROURKE'S WIFE IS DANISH
AND, AS A COUPLE, MISSION OFFICERS HAVE FOUND THEM TO
BE LIKEABLE AND DESIRABLE SOCIAL COMPANIONS. HINTON

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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